NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

FOR FEBRUARY 1987

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State Climatologist

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SYNOPSIS

Temperatures were near normal Statewide during February, with readings within one degree of long-term averages at most locations. No records for heat or cold were approached, with the warmest temperatures occurring during the first one-third of the month, and the coldest during the last week.

Precipitation was highly variable, with less than one quarter of an inch at several locations, and with 3-8" falling in the Sierra Nevada near Reno. However, considering percentage of normal precipitation, portions of the Humboldt River Valley and the southeastern part of the State had 1 1/2-2 1/2 times the usual amounts. In fact, Rye Patch Dam on the Humboldt River, had the third wettest February since records began in 1935.

TEMPERATURE

Preliminary data shows that only two small areas in the Western and Southern regions of Nevada had temperatures that varied more than 1 1/2 degrees from normal. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge in the northern portion of Las Vegas Valley, and Minden and Carson City in the Carson and Eagle Valleys, respectively, averaged about 2 1/2 degrees below normal.

The warmest temperatures were recorded during the first part of the month, when maxima reached into the 70's in Southern Nevada,and the 60's at valley locations in all but the Northeast, where 50`s were prevalent. Early reports have Laughlin at 80 , the State's warmest.

Temperatures during the last week of the month were well below normal Statewide, with daytime readings staying below freezing some days in all but Southern Nevada. Even there, Las Vegas Airport reached a high of only 40 on the 25th, a new record low maximum for the date. During this same period, all of the State, except that portion along the Colorado River, had below freezing night-time readings, with several below-zero temperatures in the northern half of Nevada. The 15 degrees below zero recorded at Wildhorse Reservoir on the 26th was the coldest in a sampling of about 2/3 of the reporting sites in the State. Fifteen nights fell below the zero mark at this Northern Elko County location.

With temperatures near normal, there were no large departures in heating requirements. However, residents of the Carson and Eagle Valleys did need about 110% of normal heat to keep homes and businesses, etc., comfortable.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation was highly variable during February. For example, Winnemucca had only 3/4 of the normal amount, while less than 50 miles away, Rye Patch Dam and Battle Mountain had three times and 2 1/2 times normal, respectively. Somewhat similar situations existed in the southern and southeastern parts of the State, with well above normal precipitation in one location (e.g., Caliente, 180%) and below normal amounts a short distance away (e.g., Pioche, 80%). The Rye Patch Dam total of 1.92" was the third heaviest for February since records began 52 years ago. The wettest was in 1978 when 3.20" was measured. February 1945 had 1.99".

The wettest portion of Nevada was the Sierra Nevada near Reno, where 8500 foot Tahoe Meadows had 8.52", Glenbrook (6,530') 4.14", Incline (6,525') 3.71", Daggett Pass (7,380') 3.28", and Mt. Rose Bowl (7,500') 3.22". These amounts are all above the monthly normals.

This was also the snowiest area of Nevada, with 42" at Daggett Pass and 37" at Mt. Rose Bowl. The Tahoe Meadows site is an automatic unmanned weather station with no daily snowfall measurements, but considering elevation, temperature and precipitation data, at least 6 feet of snowfall occurred there. Fifty-seven inches remained on the ground on March 1st.

In the Northeast, Wildhorse Reservoir and Metropolis had 21" of snowfall. An unusual snowfall occurrence brought 1/2" to Las Vegas Airport on the 25th, with more in the higher surrounding suburbs. Eight inches fell at the Reno Airport in the same storm. Early reports have Silverpeak (.06") and Alamo-Pahranagat WLR (.11") the driest Statewide, with only 30-40% of normal.

The Water Year precipitation picture has improved somewhat in most areas since last month. Portions of Southern Nevada are still 1 1/2 times the normal amounts for October 1-March 1, while most of the northern one-third of the State continues to suffer through a drought, with less than 50% of the normal. In fact, portions of the Upper and Lower Humboldt River Valley and the West have had less than 35% of normal since October 1st. However, there was some improvement in the Sierra Nevada Watersheds of the Truckee, Carson and Walker Rivers, as February was the first month this winter with wetter than normal conditions. This area has now had 45-60% of the normal 5 month precipitation, compared to 35-45% one month ago. The same is true in the Humboldt River Area, where there has been a 15-20% improvement in Water Year precipitation at several locations during the past month.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were well above normal in the northern one-third of the State, but were below normal elsewhere. For example, Winnemucca had 76% of the possible sunshine and a normal of only 53%, while Las Vegas had only 70% and an average of 81%. Solar collectors in between those two cities also had deficient amounts of the sun's heat, as data from Ely (61% vs. an average of 67%) and Reno (55% vs. the average of 68%) indicates.

It was windier than normal during February in all but the East, where it was near normal. Reno and Winnermucca had 120% of the normal wind speed, while Las Vegas had 115%. In fact, Las Vegas recorded 12 days with speeds of 25 mph or more and 5 days of 40 mph plus. Wind speeds reached over 60 mph in the Reno area on the 2nd and the 15th, and up to 80 mph on top of Slide Mtn. on the 2nd.

Evaporation pans in Southern Nevada recorded between 3 1/2 and 5 inches of evaporation, with 5.04" at Boulder City, leading the way. This is a little above normal.

NOTE 1 : The new weather observer at Fish Springs Ranch is Charley Phillips, the Ranch's Resident Manager. Also, welcome to Frank Riva, observer at the newly established Topaz Lake 4N weather station.

NOTE 2 : What are some Nevada temperature extremes for April?

HOTTEST 104 Laughlin, 1986

COLDEST -9 Stofiel, 1896
(Northern Elko Co. NW of Wells)

SOME NEVADA COMMUNITIES

Austin	81	1926	3	1936
Battle Mtn.	95	1910	6	1918
Boulder City	97	1949	31	1963
Carson City	87	1927	3	1929
Elko	90	1888	-2	1936
Ely	78	1981	-5	1982
Fallon	89	1961	13	1927
Hawthorne	92	1965	16	1927
*Las Vegas Airport	99	1981	31	1975
Pioche	85	1906	8	1891
Reno	89	1981	13	1956
Searchlight	94	1949	27	1915
Tonopah AP	83	1962	9	1958
Wells	83	1946	5	1967
Winnemucca	89	1977	6	1972
Yerington	88	1950	5	1944
* Sunrise Manor Las Vegas	102	1962	19	1953
Las Vegas	102	1914		

John W. James
State Climatologist

* * * FEBRUARY 1987 * * *

PRELIMINARY NEVADA CLIMATE DATA

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOWFALL
WEST													
CARSON CITY	4650'	48.3	22.3	35.3	-2.7	7th	26th	986	+230	1.29	-.19	13th	4"
						60	3					.86	
DAGGETT PASS	7380	42.1	23.1	32.6	-	7th	26th*	847	-	3.28	-	13th	42"
						57	5					1.47	
FISH SPRINGS RANCH	3995	51.0	25.8	38.4	-	28th	26th			.41		13th	T
						61	12					.31	
GLENBROOK	6530	42.9	23.5	33.2	-1.2	15th	26th	886	+ 26	4.14	+1.85	13th	-
						59	9					1.80	
INCLINE	6525	39.6	22.2	30.9	-1.5	6th*	26th	-	-	3.71	+.10	13th	15½"
						51	7					2.40	
MINDEN AP	4709	50.1	17.1	33.6	-2.4	10th*	26th			.91	-.08	13th	-
						62	-3					.29	
MT. ROSE BOWL	7500	35.0	20.0	27.5	-	6th*	25th	-	-	3.22	-	12th	37"
						48	5					1.16	
RED ROCK VALLEY	4760	47.2	27.4	37.3	-	7th	21st	-	-	.99	-	13th	2"
						59	11					.70	
RENO WSFO AP	4405	51.7	25.0	38.4	+1.0	7th	26th	737	-36	.78	-.17	23rd	8"
						65	15					.38	
RENO UNR	4550	49.4	27.8	38.6	-	1st	26th	-	-	.74	-	13th	2"
						62	13					.55	
SUTCLIFFE-PYRAMID LAKE	3980	48.4	33.1	40.7	-	2nd	26th	-	-	.98	-	13th	3"
						61	22					.50	
SWEETWATER	6275	49.1	19.0	34.0	-	7th	26th	-	-	1.00	-	13th	3½"
						59	1					.39	
TAHOE MEADOWS	8540	31.5	13.0	22.2	-	7th	26th	-	-	8.52	-	-	-
TOPAZ LAKE 4N		47.1	23.9	35.5	-	7th	5th	824		1.35		12th	9"
						61	9					.40	

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOWFALL
VIRGINIA CITY	6340'	42.0	26.3	34.1	-0.9	10th 52	25th 12	-	-	2.57	+.59	12th 1.10	14"
WEST CENTRAL													
FALLON EXP. STATION	3965	52.3	22.1	37.2	-1.1	10th* 64	26th 6	778	+30	.19	-.31	13th .06	1"
FALLON NAS	3935	54.0	27.0	40.5		10th* 68	26th 16			.21		13th .07	-
GERLACH	3800	40.2	16.9	28.6	-			-	-	.35	-	2nd .25	-
HAWTHORNE	4215	52.2	28.6	40.4	+0.6	2nd 69	27th 19	689	-	.18	-.30	26th .05	-
LAHONTAN DAM	4150	53.4	28.5	40.9	+1.5	7th 65	26th 17	-	-	.41	-.01	24th .15	3"
LOVELOCK	3957	50.6	23.3	37.0	+0.5	7th 64	26th 8	786	-12	.61	+.06	13th .28	1"
MINA	4552	51.0	26.9	39.0	0	8th 65	6th 14	729	+1	.39	-.02	25th .16	
RYE PATCH DAM	4135	50.3	21.4	35.8	-1.3	8th 66	26th -5	-	-	1.92	+1.30	25th .67	1"
SMITH 6N	5000	49.5	21.0	35.2	-1.2	7th* 62	26th 4	-	-	.80	-.09	23rd .19	10"
WABUSKA 5SE	4300	49.7	19.0	34.3	-	8th* 64	26th 6	-	-	.56	-	25th .34	5"
WADSWORTH	4200	51.1	23.3	37.2	-	10th 63	26th 7	-	-	.44	-	13th .25	1"
YERINGTON	4375	50.7	24.6	37.6	-0.4	11th 65	26th 11	740	-52	.66	+.09	24th .26	14"
NORTHWEST													
DENIO	4158	46.7	25.3	36.0	+0.5	10th 61	26th 14	811	+12	.96	+.25	15th .34	2"

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOWFALL
LEONARD CREEK RANCH	4224'	49.6	22.8	36.2	-	10th* 61	26th 9	-	-	.81	-	13th .39	½"
OROVADA	4310	45.7	24.4	35.0		7th 60	25th 9	-	-	.45	-.47	9th .25	4"
WINNEMUCCA AP	4295	48.9	20.0	34.5	-1.2	10th 62	25th -3	849	+29	.51	-.16	3rd .21	5"
WINNEMUCCA	4350	49.0	25.4	37.2	-	10th 63	26th 6	-	-	.95	-	23rd .30	½"
NORTHEAST													
ARTHUR 4N	6300	38.6	18.8	28.7	-	7th* 50	26th -1	-	-	. 93	-.44	24th .19	6"
BATTLE MTN. AP	4340	48.9	18.0	33.4	-1.5	11th 62	27th -8	900	+57	1.45	+.87	24th .46	10"
BEOWAWE	4700	45.9	20.1	33.0	-0.7	10th 60	27th 0	894	-	.88	+.25	24th .19	4½"
CLOVER VALLEY	5750	44.8	18.6	31.7	-	10th* 58	26th -8	-	-	1.00	-	12th .42	-
CONTACT	5365	NO DATA RECEIVED			-	-	-	-	-	.87	+.35	-	-
ELKO	5075	45.2	16.9	31.1	+0.1	6th 59	26th 0	943	-9	.68	-.13	13th .34	5½"
GIBBS RANCH	6000	39.9	15.4	27.6	-	6th 53	27th -9	-	-	.56	-	13th .27	8½"
JACKPOT	5290	45.0	20.6	32.8	-	11th 57	27th 4	-	-	.34	-	25th .12	6½"
METROPOLIS	5800	41.7	22.6	32.1	-	10th 54	26th 2	-	-	1.12	-	25th .41	20½"
MONTELLO	4880	44.6	15.9	30.2	+0.4	12th 58	27th 2	-	-	.28	-.10	14th .14	1"
MOUNTAIN CITY	5641	41.9	13.6	27.7	+0.4	6th* 53	27th* 1	1005	-51	.55	-.48	13th .14	-

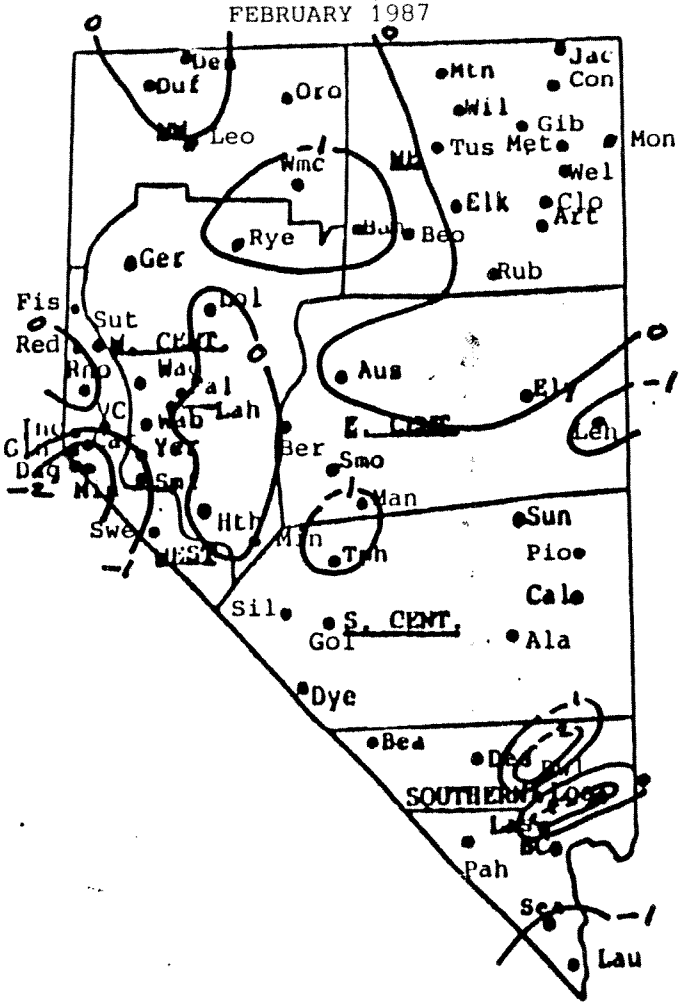
LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOWFALL
RUBY LAKE	6012'	44.2	16.8	30.5	+0.3	12th 58	27th -4	-	-	1.11	-.11	14th .36	10"
TUSCARORA	6170	39.1	14.0	26.5	-	6th 54	26th 2	-	-	.95	-	23rd .18	14½"
WELLS	5650	41.1	16.6	28.8	+0.2	10th* 54	28th -8	1010	-9	1.45	+.70	23rd .46	13"
WILDHORSE RES.	5641	37.7	9.3	23.3	-	11th 50	26th -15	1115	-	1.56	-	26th .32	21"
EAST CENTRAL													
AUSTIN	6605	44.2	21.8	33.0	+0.1	7th 58	25th 3	894	-	1.43	+.27	24th .49	15"
BERLIN	6934	DATA INC.	21.3	DATA INC.	-	6th 57	26th 7	-	-	.70	-	24th .38	-
ELY	6260	42.5	16.8	29.7	+0.9	1st 56	27th -2	985	-29	.61	-.07	14th .23	6"
GT. BASIN N.P. (LEHMAN CAVES)	6825	40.7	22.1	31.4	-1.1	1st 53	25th 6	-	-	1.13	+.14	14th .23	7"
MANHATTEN	7130	40.9	17.7	29.3	-	6th* 56	27th -2	-	-	.99	-	23rd .67	12"
SMOKEY VALLEY	5625	47.9	20.6	34.2	-0.8	1st 63	27th 7	-	-	.56	-.10	13th .18	-
SOUTH CENTRAL													
ALAMO-PAHRANAGAT	3400	57.3	31.5	44.4	-	6th 68	21st 20	-	-	.11	-	24th .03	1"
CALIENTE	4400	52.3	24.8	38.5	-0.1	10th* 64	27th 11	740	+1	1.43	+.63	25th .48	-
DYER 4SE	4975	49.9	23.8	36.8	-0.2	7th 62	24th 6	-	-	.30	-.13	25th .08	5½"
GOLDFIELD	5690	44.8	25.4	35.1	-0.5	7th 58	27th 14	-	-	.31	-.45	23rd .25	3"
PIOCHE	6165	44.7	24.9	34.8	-0.1	6th 57	26th 12	-	-	1.13	-.26	24th .40	13"

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOWFALL
SUNNYSIDE	5300'	48.2	22.4	35.3	-	6th 60	25th 6	-	-	.33	-	18th .10	2"
SILVERPEAK	4263	52.9	25.4	39.6	-	7th 64	26th 12	-	-	.06	-	2nd .03	-
TONOPAH AP	5425	48.0	25.6	36.8	-1.1	6th* 60	27th 13	785	-30	.51	+.04	24th .17	-
TONOPAH	6100	43.6	24.7	34.1	-	12th 53	26th 10	-	-	.87	-	23rd .65	8½"
SOUTHERN													
BEATTY 8N	3550	58.1	30.5	44.3	-1.1	5th 72	24th 6	-	-	.70	-.06	25th .32	5"
BOULDER CITY	2525	60.6	41.8	51.2	-0.4	9th 69	26th* 31	-	-	.77	+.24	25th .37	T
DESERT NATL. W.R.	2920	57.0	33.2	45.1	-	6th 69	28th 24	-	-	.36	-.08	16th .26	2"
DESERT ROCK	3300	57.5	36.8	47.1	-0.2	8th 68	25th 28	494	+3	.77	-.89	25th .54	6"
LAS VEGAS A.P.	2160	62.0	40.8	51.4	+1.3	8th 71	28th* 32	375	-42	.45	-.01	25th .37	½"
LAS VEGAS-SUNRISE MANOR	1820	63.5	36.7	50.1	-	9th 73	28th* 28	-	-	.43	-.03	26th .14	T
LAUGHLIN	550	70.4	44.8	57.6	-	12th 80	27th 36	214	-	.18	-	25th .15	0"
LOGANDALE	1320	67.6	38.7	53.1	-	8th 79	23rd 27	-	-	1.38	-	5th .45	2½"
PAHRUMP	2670	61.4	33.8	47.6	-	9th 73	27th 20	489	-	.17	-	26th .08	-
SEARCHLIGHT	3540	56.4	38.1	47.2	-1.0	13th* 67	27th 27	494	+24	.82	+.09	26th .38	-

*LATEST OF MORE THAN ONE OCCURRENCE
NOTE: NORMALS BASED ON 1951-1980 PERIOD

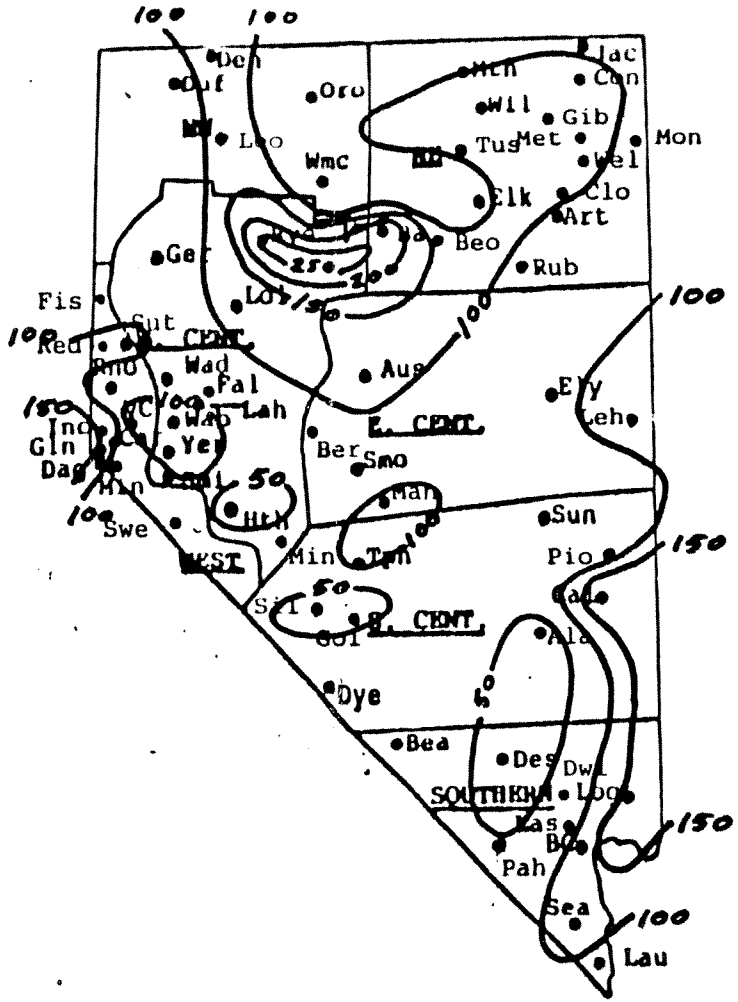
DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE
FROM NORMAL (F°)

FEBRUARY 1987



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

FEBRUARY 1987



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

OCTOBER 1, 1986 - MARCH 1, 1987